

# Rural North Roundtable Takeaways - 2023

## Statewide Equity Convening

California Center for Rural Policy

### Rural North Overview



- **Counties include:** Del Norte, Glenn, Humboldt, Lake, Lassen, Mendocino, Modoc, Shasta, Siskiyou, Tehama, and Trinity.
- **The Rural North makes up 2% of California's total population and roughly 22% of its total land area.**

In September of 2023, The California Department of Public Health, Office of Health Equity hosted a statewide convening on the topic of equity to: (1) create a shared understanding of the relationship between health equity and racial justice, (2) connect with peers and learn from their successes, challenges, and experiences, (3) continue to operationalize and embed health equity into the work of Local Health Jurisdictions (LHJs), and (4) understand CDPH health equity efforts and how they align with the work of LHJs.

California Center for Rural Policy (CCRP) hosted a regional roundtable discussion with key equity staff from the Rural North. Equity staff were asked to discuss a takeaway from a plenary session on the link between racial and health equity. They were also asked:

- How do you measure your equity work, progress, or impact(s)?
- What is an equity win for your LHJ that has created the most impact?

### Takeaways from Plenary Session:

- Be strategic about deciding who your racial equity allies are.
- Be strategic with equity efforts, especially in politicized communities or communities resistant to change.
- Keep informed on what elected officials are saying and voting for.
- Bring your local county's history to the attention of the community with the goal of advancing equity.
- Frame why racial equity is important; recognizing trauma and history are key parts to advancing equity.
- Use data responsibly to not blame individuals for place-based health disparities.
- Explore innovative ways to circulate Community Health Assessment (CHA) key findings (ex. translate reports, create videos).
- The “bootstraps narrative” doesn't address systemic factors that perpetuate racial and health inequities.



“The Rural North is advancing a spirit of collaboration towards improving community health”

Measuring Equity Work:

Local Health Departments in the Rural North have implemented the following strategies to measure equity work:

- Health equity checklists are used to embed health equity in the design of programs. Departments measure the use of checklists.
- Formal processes to track completion of health equity trainings, sessions, and the work of community organizers.
- Community collaboratives that are moving CHA and Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) work forward, holding conversations around equity, and tracking correspondences.
- The development of language access plans, translation (ex. braille, augmented listening devices), and targeted outreach is being tracked.

Equity Wins in the Rural North:

- Establishing Public Health roles embedded in communities (ex. Promotores, Community Organizers, Community Health Workers, Community Health Outreach Workers).
- Partnering with community-based groups: federally recognized and unrecognized Tribes, Native non-profit entities, Spanish-speaking communities, and public health bilingual subcommittees.
- Participating in community-based events: cultural celebrations, community wellbeing assessment events, broadcast public service announcements, Spanish language podcasts, and participation in Native wellness coalitions and roundhouse celebrations.
- Embedding and centering equity internally via assessments, action plans, newsletters, trainings.
- Being consistent with equity efforts.

Rural North Roundtable Graphic Recording (Rio Holiday, 2023)

